

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. **(Previously presented)** An easily dispersible cake of precipitated silica, wherein the precipitated silica has a BET specific surface area of at least 220 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and wherein when ion-exchange water is added to the easily dispersible cake to provide an aqueous dispersion of the silica with a concentration of 5% by weight, said dispersion being stirred with a propeller mixer to affect a preliminary dispersion, a resultant slurry being treated to be dispersed with a high-pressure homogenizer once at a processing pressure of 78 MPa, and further being diluted to reduce the silica concentration to 1.5% by weight, a resultant dispersion has a light-scattering index (n-value) of at least 2.
2. **(Currently amended)** ~~An~~The easily dispersible cake of precipitated silica according to Claim 1, having a water content within a range of 83-93% by weight.
3. **(Previously presented)** A process for producing the easily dispersible cake of precipitated silica according to Claim 1, comprising using a liquid selected from the group consisting of aqueous alkali silicate solution, alkaline aqueous solution of which pH is adjusted with a basic substance, and water as an initial reaction liquid, wherein said process comprises simultaneously adding an alkali silicate and a mineral acid to a reaction liquid of which pH is being maintained at a fixed value within a range of 7.5-11.5, and of which temperature is being maintained at not lower than 90°C, whereby forming precipitated silica through their reaction; and separating said precipitated silica from said reaction liquid in wet state.
4. **(Currently amended)** The process for producing ~~an~~the easily dispersible cake of precipitated silica according to Claim 3, wherein a concentration of silica solid in a reaction mixture at an ending time of the reaction is not higher than 50 g/L.
5. **(Currently amended)** A dispersion of precipitated silica ~~which is characterized by being~~

comprising a dispersion of ~~an~~the easily dispersible cake of precipitated silica ~~as described in~~  
according to Claim 1 in a polar solvent, wherein ~~the~~an average particle size of ~~the~~ precipitated  
silica particles present in the dispersion ~~being~~is not greater than 300 nm, and ~~the~~a ratio of  
aggregated particles having a particle size ~~equaling~~equal to or more than 500 nm ~~being~~is not  
higher than 5% by volume.

6. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~The dispersion of precipitated silica according to Claim 5, ~~in~~  
~~which~~ further comprising a cationic polymer ~~is dispersed~~.

7. **(Currently amended)** A process for preparing the dispersion of precipitated silica ~~of~~  
according to Claim 5, comprising ~~subjecting in which~~ a silica slurry, formed by dispersing ~~a~~the  
cake of precipitated silica in ~~a~~the polar solvent, ~~is subjected to~~ a fine pulverization treatment  
with a ~~high-pressure~~high-pressure homogenizer, ~~wherein the cake of precipitated silica is~~  
~~characterized by having BET specific surface area of at least 220 m<sup>2</sup>/g and when it is dispersed in~~  
~~ion-exchange water to provide an aqueous dispersion of the silica of 5% by weight in~~  
~~concentration and further diluted to reduce the silica concentration to 1.5% by weight, the~~  
~~dispersion having a light scattering index (n-value) of at least 2.~~

8. **(Currently amended)** A process for preparing ~~a~~the dispersion of precipitated silica  
according to Claim 6, comprising ~~subjecting in which~~ a liquid premixture, formed by dispersing  
~~a~~the cake of precipitated silica and the cationic polymer in ~~a~~the polar solvent, ~~is subjected to~~ a  
fine pulverization treatment with a high-pressure ~~high-pressure~~ homogenizer, ~~wherein the cake~~  
~~of precipitated silica is characterized by having BET specific surface area of at least 220 m<sup>2</sup>/g~~  
~~and when it is dispersed in ion-exchange water to provide an aqueous dispersion of the silica of~~  
~~5% by weight in concentration and further diluted to reduce the silica concentration to 1.5% by~~  
~~weight, the dispersion having a light scattering index (n-value) of at least 2.~~

9. **(Currently amended)** A coating liquid for an ink-jet recording sheet, which is  
~~characterized by being~~ obtained by dispersing the easily dispersible cake of precipitate silica

according to ~~of~~ Claim 1 and a binder in a polar solvent,

wherein and the a percent transmission of the coating liquid, as measured after diluting the same to the silica concentration of 1.5% by weight, is ~~being~~ at least 20%.

10. **(Currently amended)** A ~~The~~ coating liquid for the ink-jet recording sheet according to Claim 9, ~~which further comprising~~ comprises a cationic polymer.

11. **(Currently amended)** A process for making a ~~the~~ coating liquid for the ink-jet recording sheet ~~of according to~~ Claim 9, comprising ~~which is characterized by dispersing a the~~ cake of precipitated silica and ~~a the~~ binder in a the polar solvent, ~~wherein the cake of precipitated silica is characterized by having BET specific surface area of at least 220 m<sup>2</sup>/g and when it is dispersed in ion-exchange water to provide an aqueous dispersion of the silica of 5% by weight in concentration and further diluted to reduce the silica concentration to 1.5% by weight, the dispersion having a light scattering index (n-value) of at least 2.~~

12. **(Currently amended)** A process for making a ~~the~~ coating liquid for the ink-jet recording sheet ~~of according to~~ Claim 10, comprising ~~which is characterized by dispersing a the~~ cake of precipitated silica, the cationic polymer and the binder in a the polar solvent, ~~wherein the cake of precipitated silica is characterized by having BET specific surface area of at least 220 m<sup>2</sup>/g and when it is dispersed in ion-exchange water to provide an aqueous dispersion of the silica of 5% by weight in concentration and further diluted to reduce the silica concentration to 1.5% by weight, the dispersion having a light scattering index (n-value) of at least 2.~~